

# ABBOTT AND COSTELLO

COMICS

NOT NOW, HONEY...  
ABBOTT'S  
WATCHING!





# CONCERNING COSTELLO

By BUD ABBOTT

**W**HEN YOU write about Costello any resemblance to any person, living or dead, is *not* coincidental. It's preposterous! Even as a boy Costello was noted for having a very level head. It's still the flattest thing you ever saw! You've heard, of course, that he worked his way up from the bottom. But why did he go back down again? One thing I'll have to grant him is that he can really take a joke. He *always* takes my best jokes, the thief!

Did you know that he was voted one of the world's ten best dressed men in 1923? The only trouble is that he's been wearing the same suit ever since. No, wait! That's not quite right. He did buy a new suit the other day. And it fits like a glove! Indeed, I think it would make a swell catcher's mitt.

Costello has a fine physique. I'm really not fooling about his build. You should see him in a bathing suit! That magnificent torso makes the lifeguards look sick! Not only does it make the lifeguards look sick... *everybody* turns green! He's fortunate, too. He never gets sunburned. The sun doesn't stay out that long. Costello doesn't go swimming any longer, though. Not since the day the little boy begged his mother to buy him that nice beach ball... the one that talked.

Incidentally, Costello's building himself a new home. However, he's having a little trouble getting materials ever since they doubled the guard at the lumber yard.

I suppose you all know that Costello is very sentimental. That's not the reason he kept the first dollar he ever made, though. He was just afraid to try and pass it. He has the reputation of being a very lavish tipper, and I must say that it is deserved. Why I remember distinctly the time that Costello tipped a guy fifteen cents for saving his life. Yowsuh, he doesn't care what he does with his money, just so he doesn't spend it.



LOU COSTELLO

Is Costello a coward? I wouldn't go so far as to say that. But he certainly doesn't have any surplus courage. He thinks he's a great ladies' man. I'll admit he *does* have a lot of phone numbers. But you've got a new telephone directory, too, haven't you? Last year he tried to join a Lonely Hearts Club. He sent in his photo, but it was returned with a note of rejection. None of the Lonely Hearts were *that* lonely!

I do not mean to imply by any of this that Costello is dumber than an ox. However. He isn't any smarter. He's the only man I've ever heard grind gears when he thinks. Listen to this: he was out one night with a beautiful girl. She looked into his eyes and whispered, "Tell me all about yourself." "What do you think I am, a squealer?" snarled Costello. Then there was the occasion I asked him to come with me to a fire sale. He refused to go. Couldn't see the sense of buying a fire in the summer.

I'm sorry. I guess I shouldn't have insulted Costello. Poor little guy, he takes it to heart so. I remember the last time I was mean to him. It was pitiful. You should have seen his face. Boy, did he need a shave!

(Continued on Inside Back Cover)



# ABBOTT and COSTELLO

in "SO NEAR AND YET SAFARI!"

A Jungle Saga by  
JOHN GRAHAM  
Illustrated by  
LILLY RENEE and  
ERIC PETERS



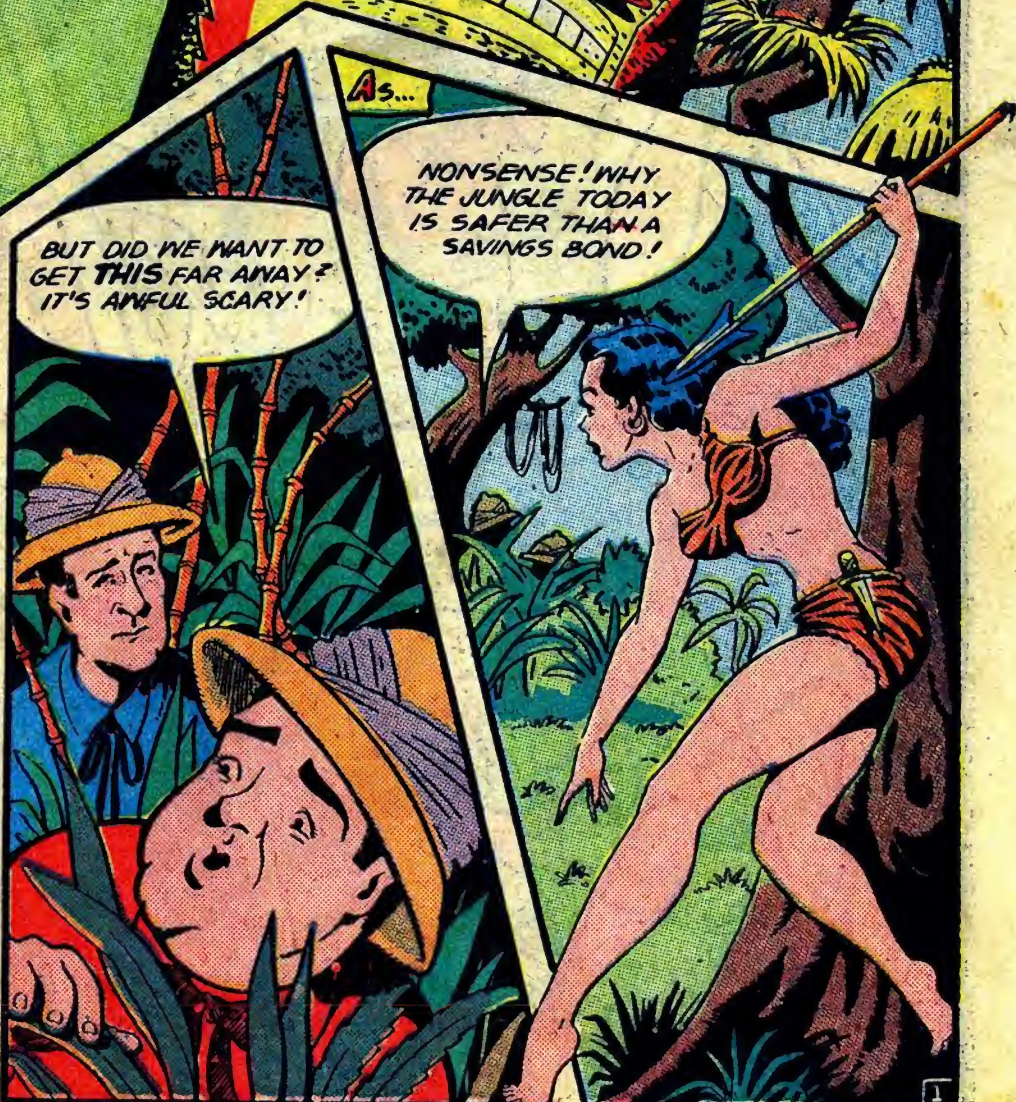
AT LAST, PEACE AND  
QUIET! WASN'T IT WORTH  
THE TROUBLE AND  
EXPENSE TO FINALLY GET  
AWAY FROM THE CROWDS?

Y-Y-Y-YES!

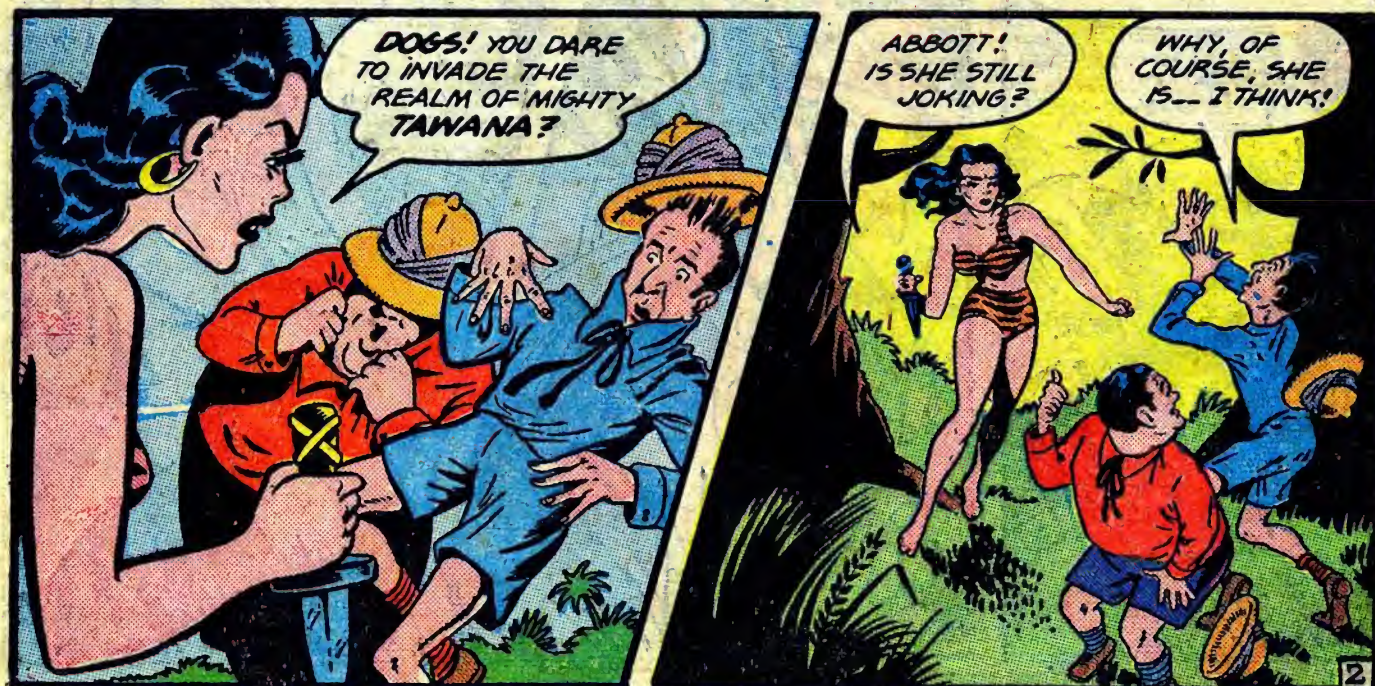
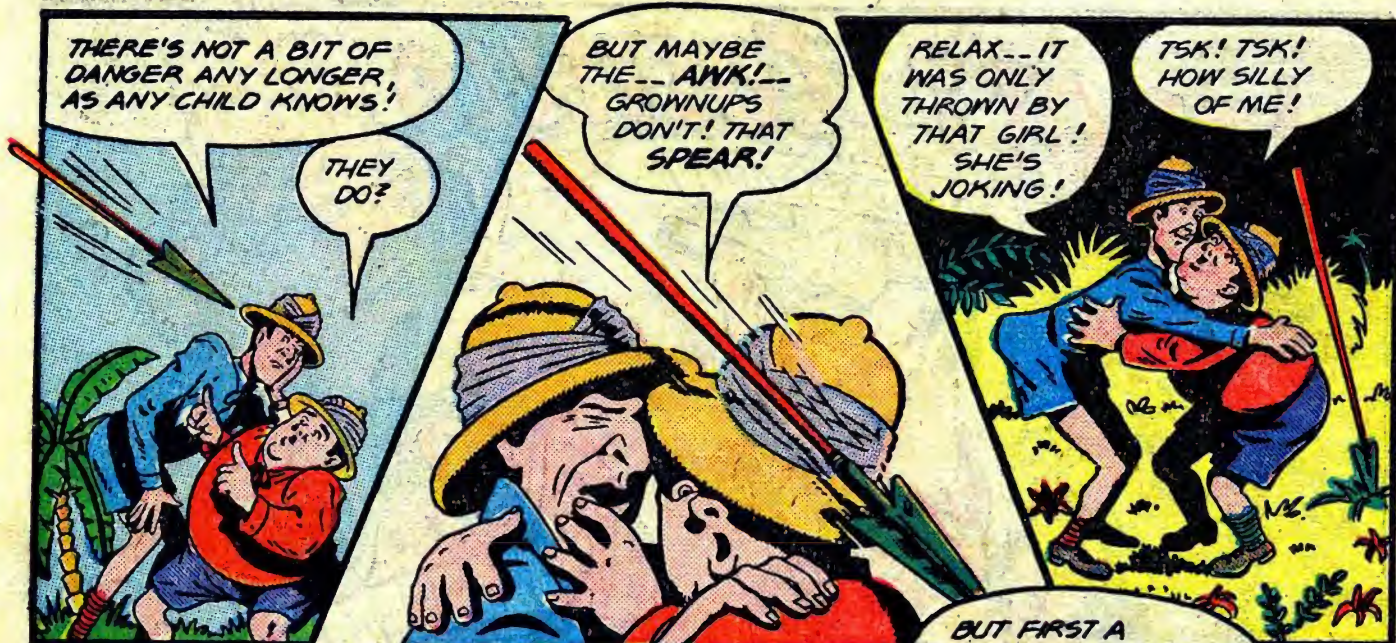
BUT DID WE WANT TO  
GET THIS FAR AWAY?  
IT'S AWFUL SCARY!

As...

NONSENSE! WHY  
THE JUNGLE TODAY  
IS SAFER THAN A  
SAVINGS BOND!











FOOLS! YOU WILL LEARN THAT TAWANA HAS NEVER JESTED!

COULDN'T YOU START NOW?

DO YOU THINK WE HAVE A CHANCE?

MAYBE... IT LOOKS LIKE A TOSS-UP!



-- AND TO THINK I LIKED THAT DAME AT FIRST!

WELL, YOU'RE STILL FALLING FOR HER!



CHEER UP ABBOTT... AT LEAST WE -- OOF! -- GAINED SOME GROUND!



WHERE... WHERE AM I?

IN THE WRONG PLACE, I'M AFRAID... AWK... A KNIFE!



HO! YOU FEAR THE STEEL! FEEL IT DRAW CLOSER... EVER CLOSER TO YOUR CRAVEN THROATS!



STILL, TAWANA WILL  
SPARE YOU THIS  
TIME... BUT I  
WARN YOU  
DEPART OR DIE!



SHE'S GONE! AND  
WE'D BETTER GO  
TOO!



PHOOEY!  
I'M NOT  
AFRAID  
OF A  
GIRL!

ESPECIALLY WHEN  
SHE'S NOT HERE,  
SEE? WITH THIS  
DISGUISE EVEN THE  
APES COULDN'T TELL  
US FROM THE  
BELGIAN CONGO!



As...

NICE DISGUISE LULU. IF  
I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER  
I'D REALLY THINK YOU  
WERE TAWANA!



AND HERE'S REAL  
LUCK... TAWANA  
HERSELF!



HOW'LL  
YOU GET  
HER, ERIC?

WATCH!



I'M GONNA  
"ROCK" THAT  
BABY TO SLEEP  
-- PERMANENTLY!











THAT'S ODD... THEY  
KEEP GETTING  
TIGHTER... I...



ABBOTT!



WHAT TH...  
HONESTLY, COSTELLO,  
YOU GET WRAPPED  
UP IN THE MOST  
SILLY SITUATIONS...



BUT DON'T  
WORRY, I'LL  
WRITE THE  
AMERICAN  
CONSUL!



BE SURE IT'S AIRMAIL...  
NO, WAIT, SHE'S FRIENDLY!  
SHE'S GOT A REAL CRUSH  
ON ME!

WELL, COME  
DOWN THEN  
WE'RE IN A  
HURRY!



ER... YOU CAN  
JUST DROP ME  
HERE... ANY-  
PLACE!

OH, COME  
ON STOP  
TALKING!



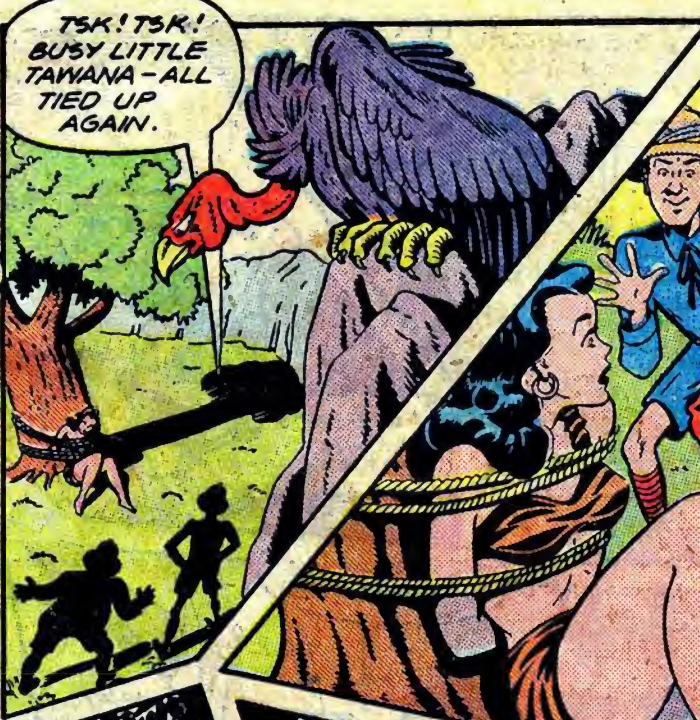
AW, DON'T BE MEAN  
SEE? THE SNAKE'S  
CRYING AND THEY'RE  
NOT CROCODILE TEARS  
G'BYE BABY!





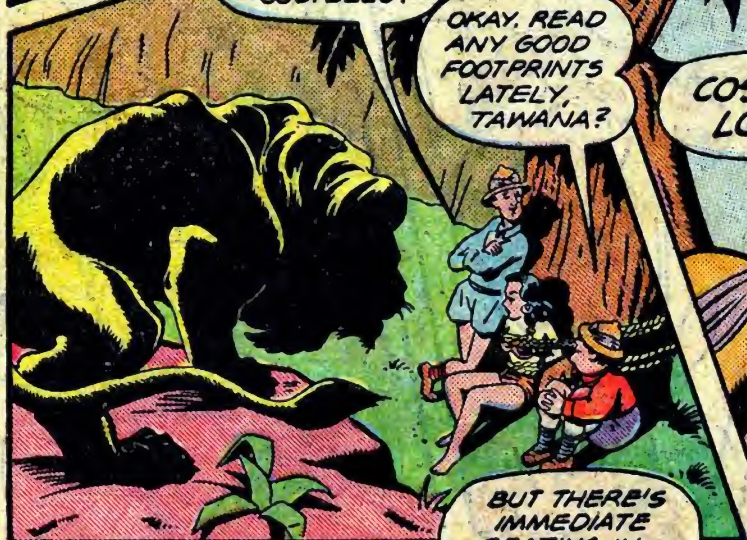
MAYBE SHE WAS JUST A REPTILE, BUT I'LL MISS THOSE LOVELY, BEADY LITTLE EYES. I -

LOOK!



TSK! TSK! BUSY LITTLE TAWANA - ALL TIED UP AGAIN.

NOT SO TOUGH NOW, ARE YOU? C'MON AND FIGHT LIKE A WOMAN! YOU FEMALE YOU!



OH, LET'S BE FRIENDS, COSTELLO.

OKAY, READ ANY GOOD FOOTPRINTS LATELY, TAWANA?

COSTELLO, LOOK!



YEAH... LION FORMS TO THE RIGHT!

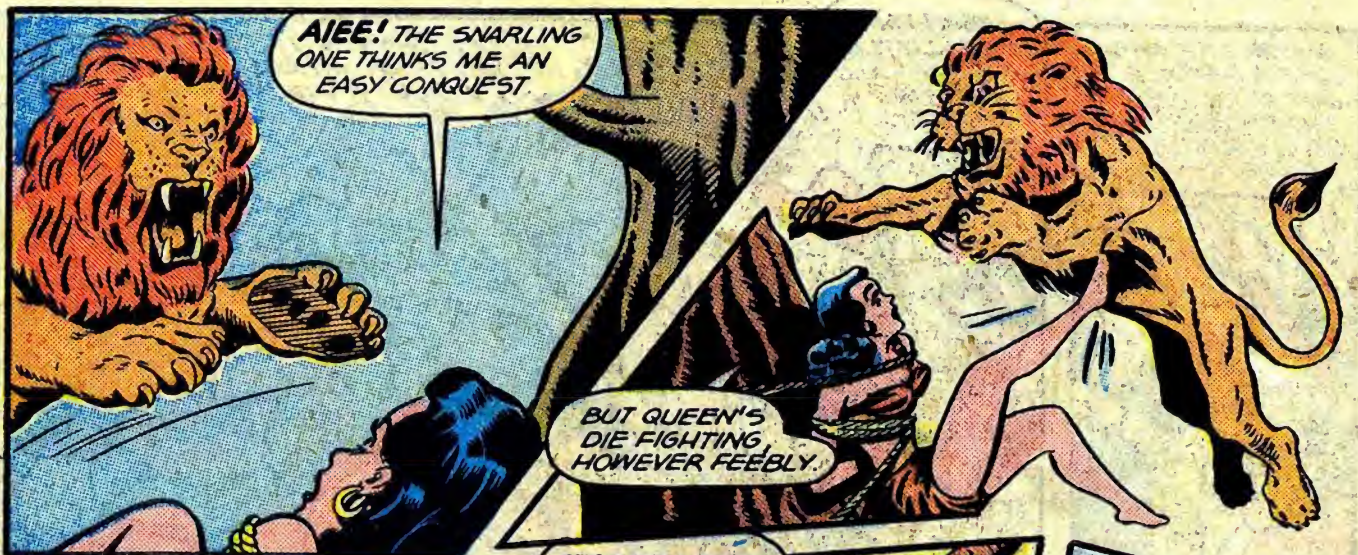


BUT THERE'S IMMEDIATE SEATING IN THE BALCONY.



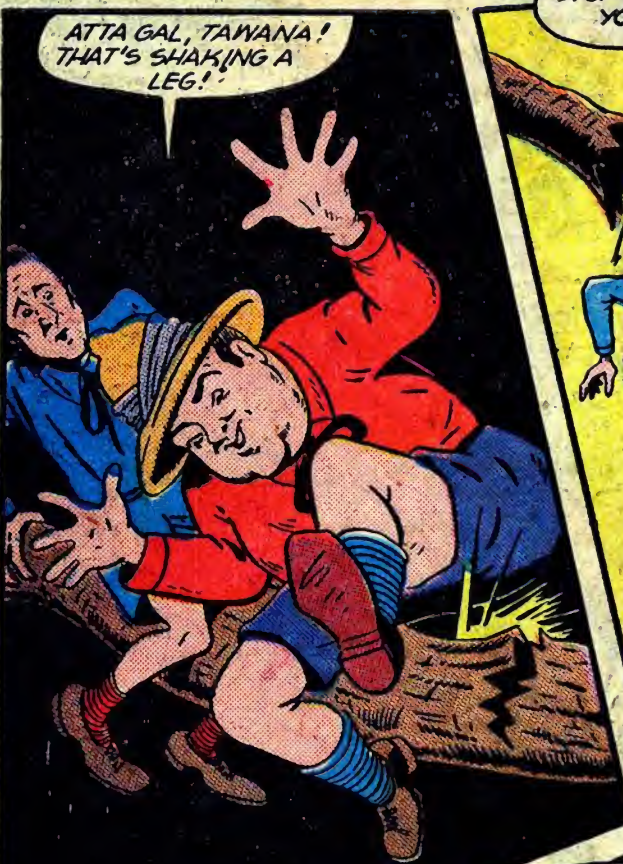
OH, GOLLY, POOR, TAWANA! I'LL BET SHE'D LOVE TO BREAK THIS DINNER DATE. G'WAN, SCAT!





AIEE! THE SNARLING  
ONE THINKS ME AN  
EASY CONQUEST.

BUT QUEEN'S  
DIE FIGHTING  
HOWEVER FEEBLY.



ATTA GAL, TAVANA!  
THAT'S SHAKING A  
LEG!



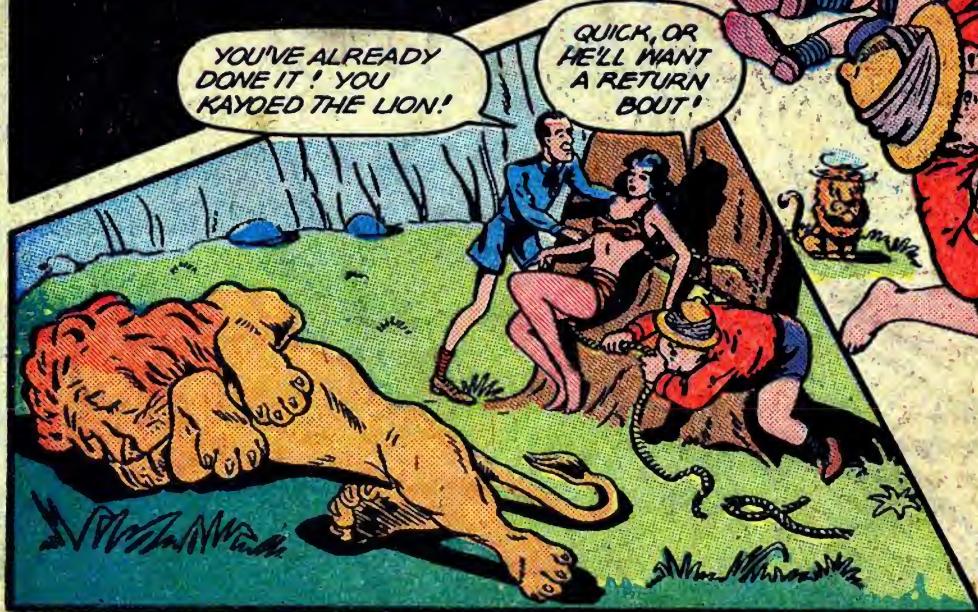
STOP BOUNCING -  
YOU'LL -

WHAT  
WAS  
THAT  
LAST  
CRACK?



ABBOTT!  
WHAT'LL  
I DO?

HOW  
MAY I  
REPAY  
YOU?



YOU'VE ALREADY  
DONE IT! YOU  
KAYOED THE LION!

QUICK, OR  
HE'LL WANT  
A RETURN  
BOUT!



WE WANNA GO HOME! JUST POINT OUT THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE U.S.A!

FOLLOW ME!

ABBOTT! LET'S WAIT FOR THE NEXT CROSSTOWN SAFARI! I'M SCARED OF HIGH PLACES.

OH, COME ON. THERE'S NOTHING TO IT!

BUT THERE'S (PUFF!) SO MUCH OF ME!

STILL IT SURE IS A CHEAP WAY TO TRAVEL! CHANGE HERE FOR INDO-CHINA AND ALL LOCAL STOPS!

I-ER-BEG YOUR PARDON. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE USING YOUR TAIL

ABBOTT! HE'S MAKING A MONKEY OUT OF ME - ABBOTT!



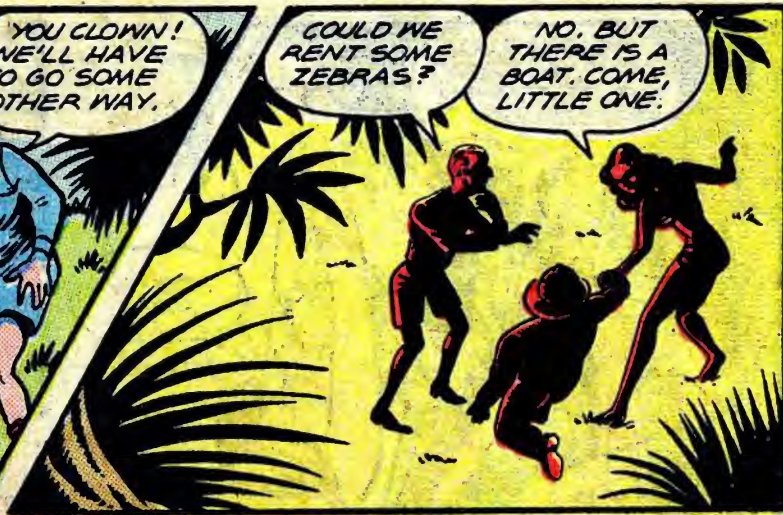


SORRY, FOLKS. GUESS I TRIED TO SOLO TOO SOON.

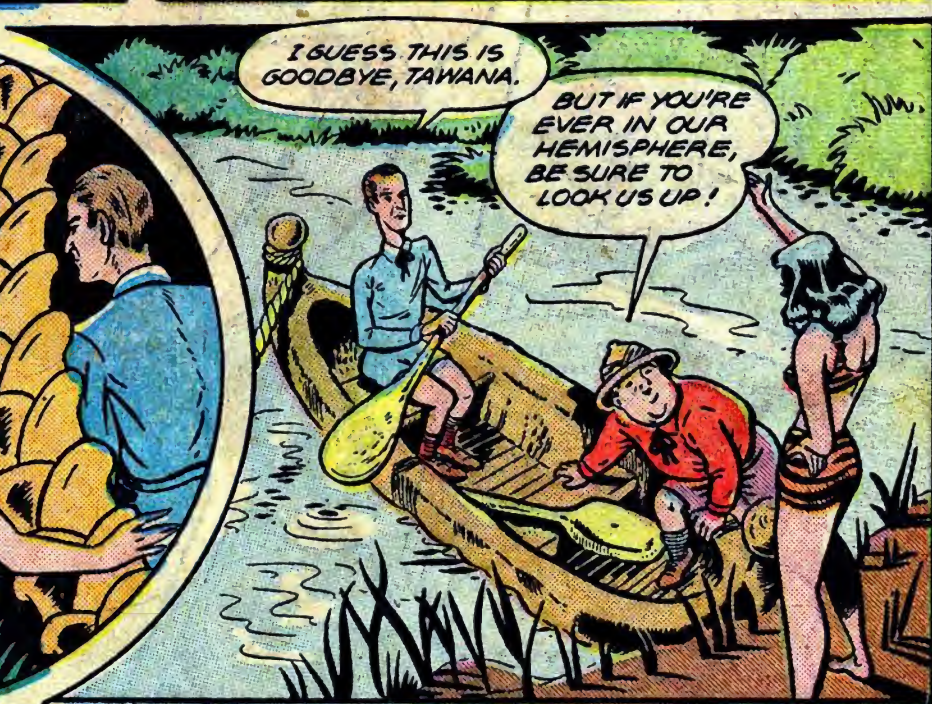
YOU CLOWN! WE'LL HAVE TO GO SOME OTHER WAY.

COULD WE RENT SOME ZEBRAS?

NO, BUT THERE IS A BOAT. COME, LITTLE ONE.

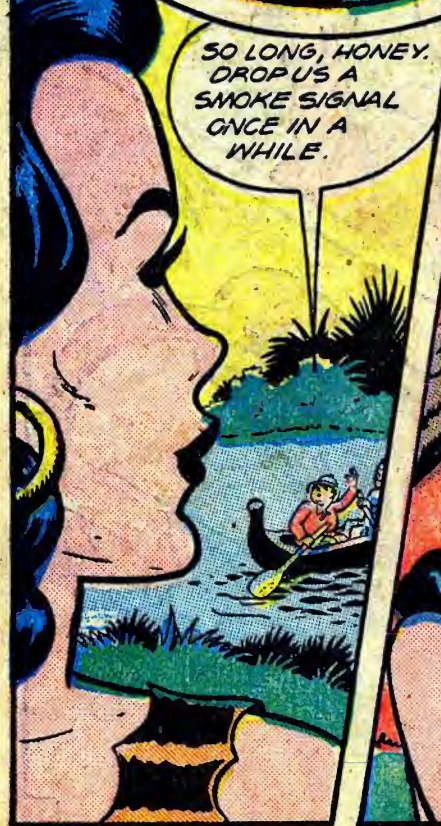


A BOAT! THAT'S SWELL! I KNOW A SHORT CUT THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL.

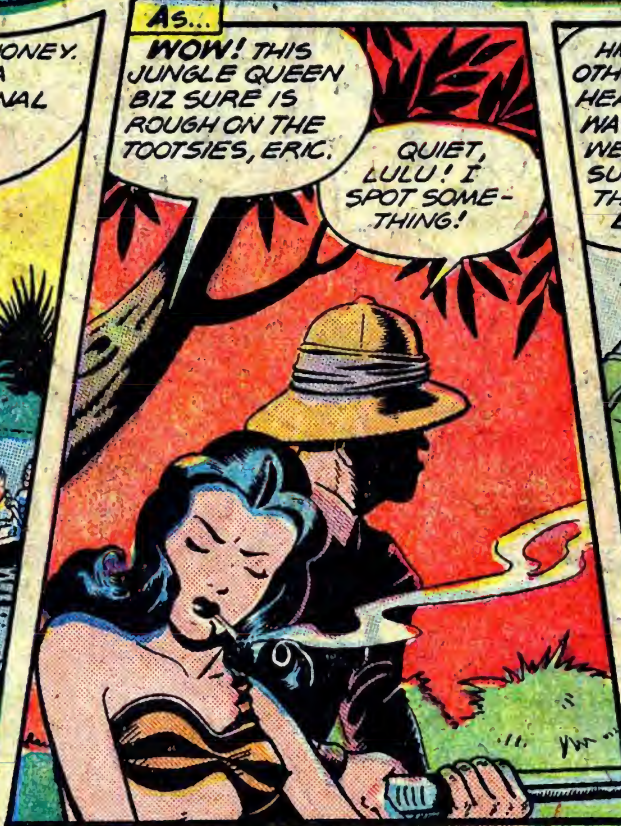


I GUESS THIS IS GOODBYE, TAWANA.

BUT IF YOU'RE EVER IN OUR HEMISPHERE, BE SURE TO LOOK US UP!



SO LONG, HONEY. DROP US A SMOKE SIGNAL ONCE IN A WHILE.



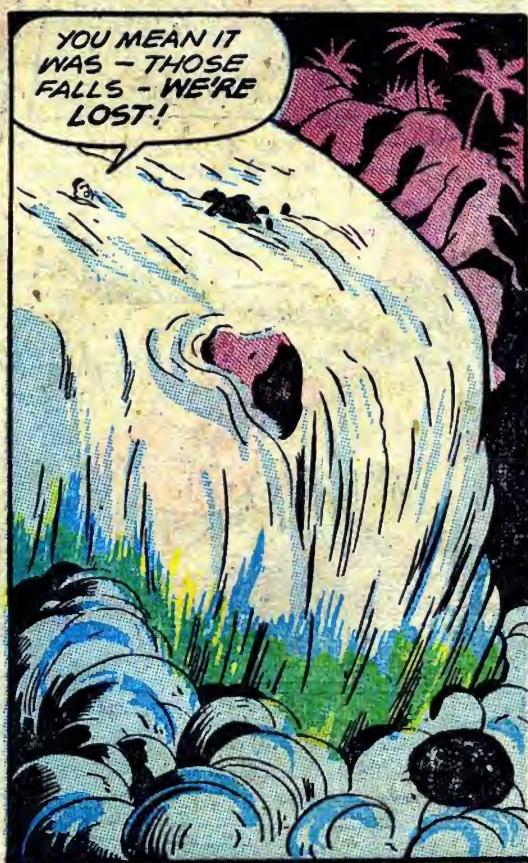
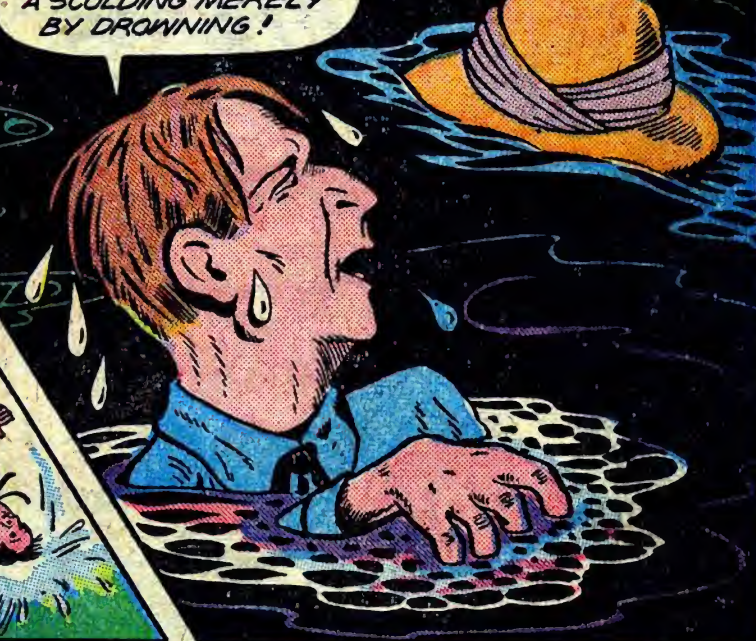
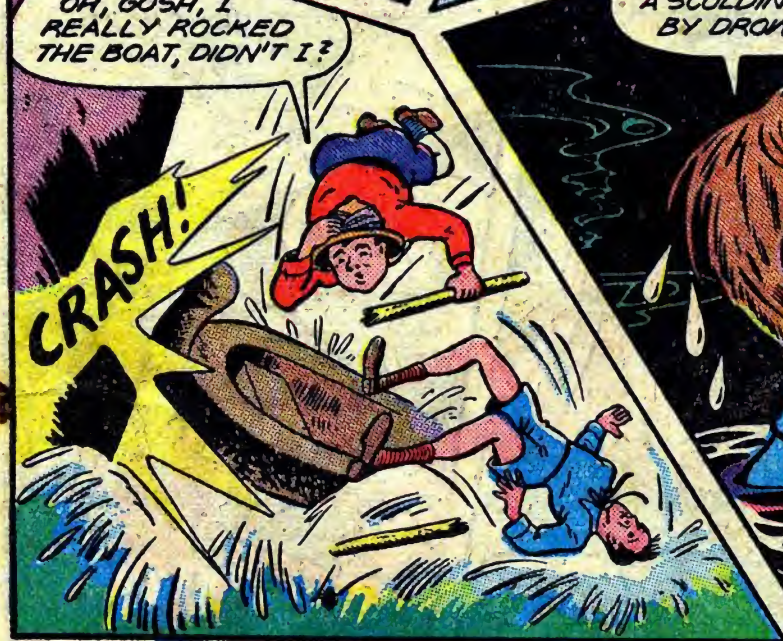
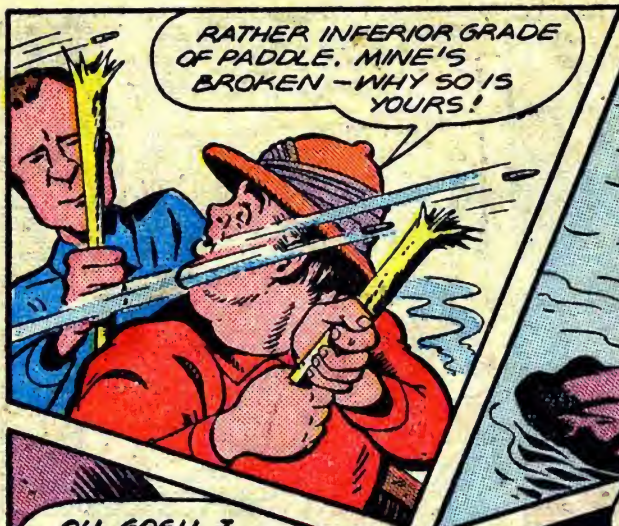
As...  
WOW! THIS JUNGLE QUEEN BIZ SURE IS ROUGH ON THE TOOTSIES, ERIC.

QUIET, LULU! I SPOT SOME-THING!



HMM... COUPLE OF OTHER MUGGS HEADED FOR THE WASULI VILLAGE, EH? WELL, THERE'S ONE SURE WAY TO PUT THEM OUT OF BUSINESS.







HAH! THEY'RE GONERS, LULU, WHICH GIVES US A MONOPOLY ON THE LOCAL CRIME WAVE.

NOTHING BETWEEN US AND THE WASULI JEWELS NOW BUT A FEW MILES AND A LITTLE CHATTER.

BUT... OUCH! THAT'S ONE TIME WE WENT OVER WITH A BANG!

W-W-WHAT A PLACE! ISN'T THERE ANYTHING HERE TO EAT B-BUT US?

BOY, SOME DROP! DID YOU SHRIEK SOMETHING, ABBOTT?

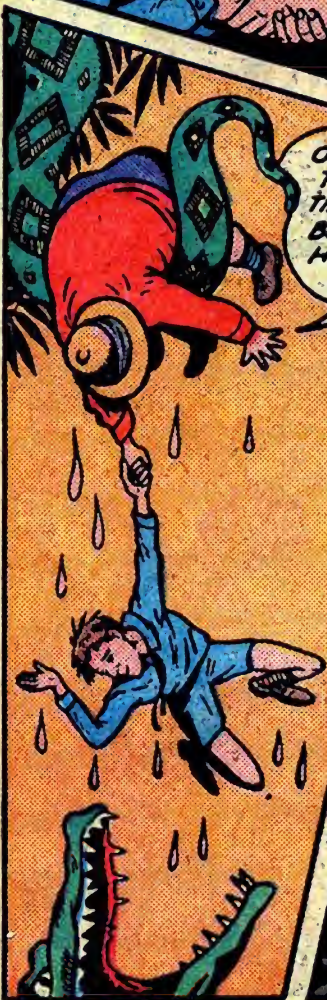
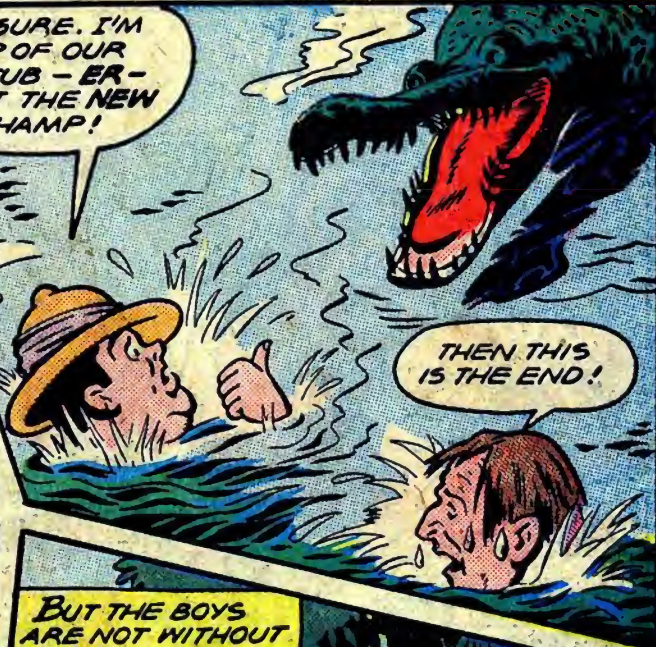
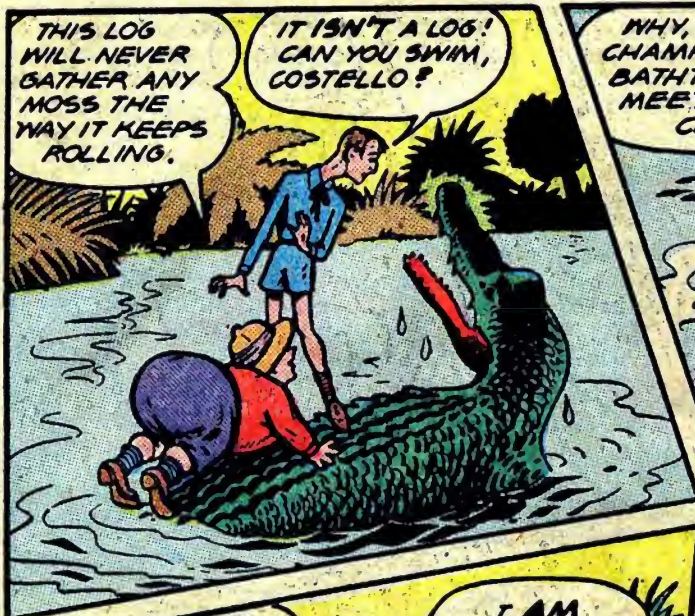
SEARCH ME.

BUT THIS GUY'S GONNA HAVE HIS TOOTHPICK BEFORE LUNCH!

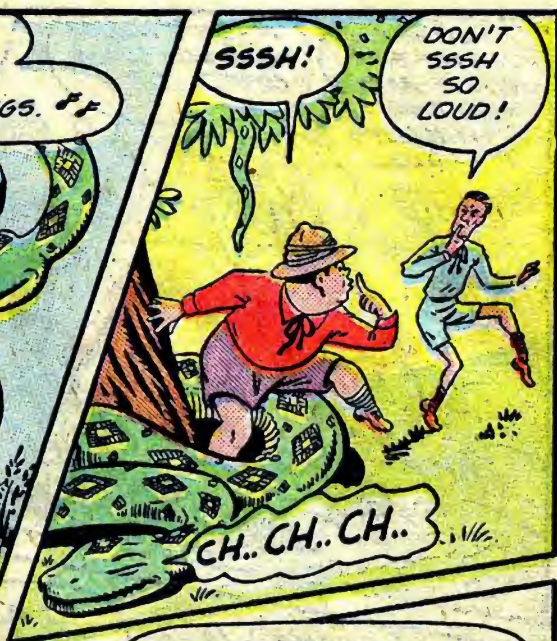
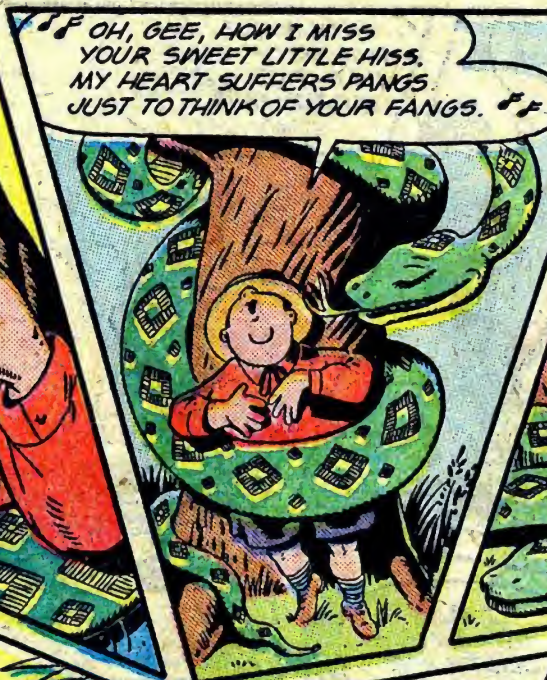
NICE WORK!

OH, ANY HERO COULD HAVE DONE THE SAME THING. LET'S RELAX ON THIS LOG, EH?





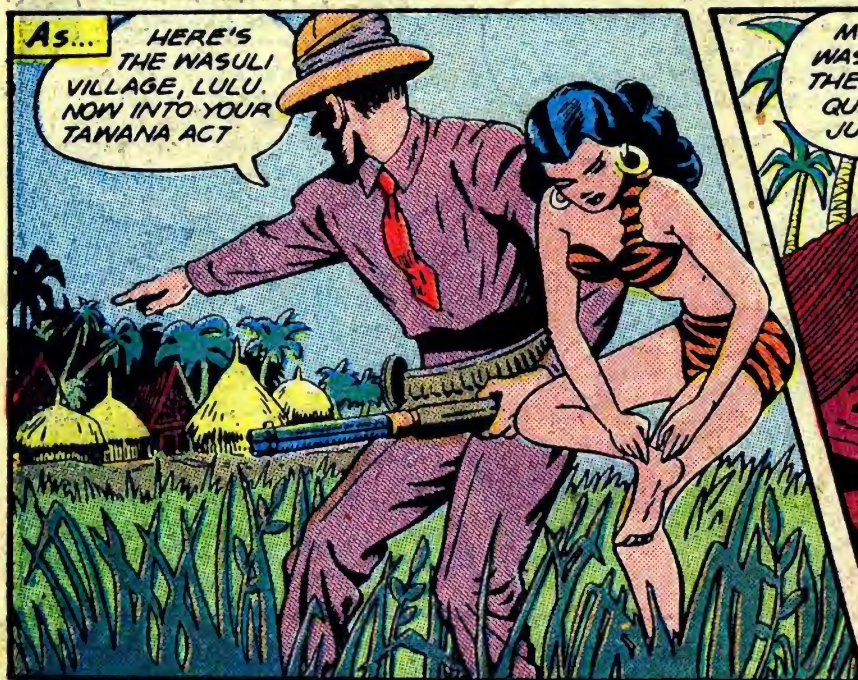




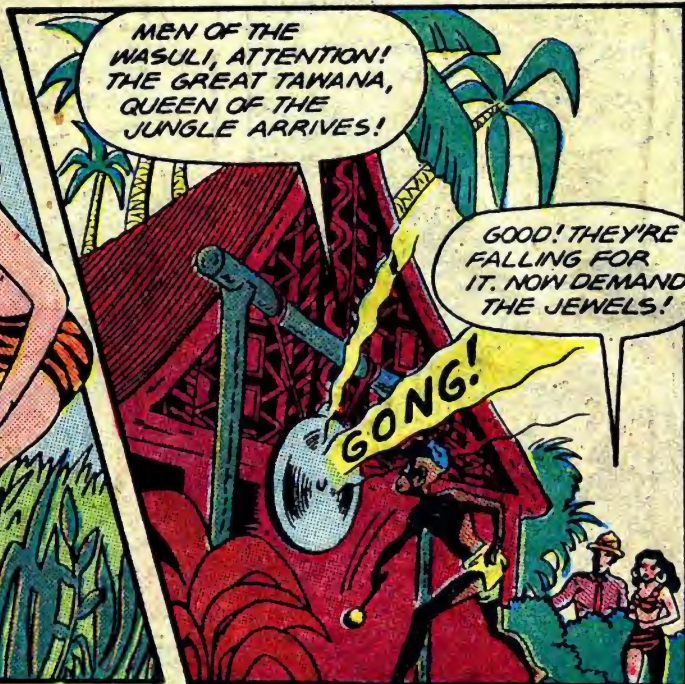








As...  
HERE'S  
THE WASULI  
VILLAGE, LULU.  
NOW INTO YOUR  
TAWANA ACT



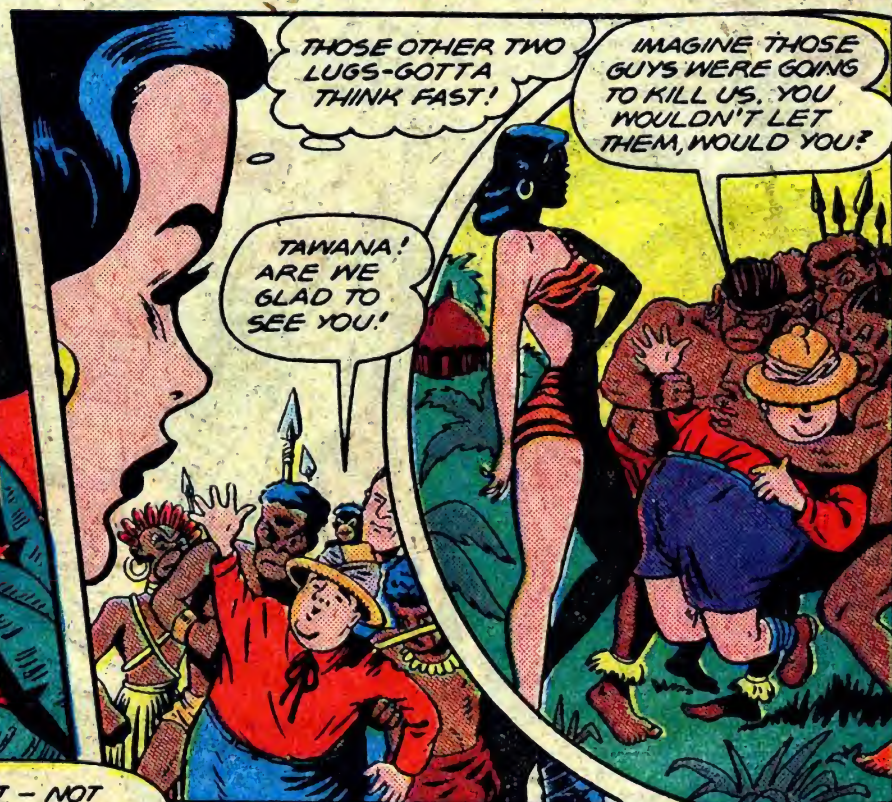
MEN OF THE  
WASULI, ATTENTION!  
THE GREAT TAWANA,  
QUEEN OF THE  
JUNGLE ARRIVES!

GOOD! THEY'RE  
FALLING FOR  
IT. NOW DEMAND  
THE JEWELS!

GONG!



THEY'LL DO WHAT YOU  
ORDER, THINKING YOU'RE  
TAWANA - WAIT SOME-  
ONE'S COMING!



THOSE OTHER TWO  
LUGS-GOTTA  
THINK FAST!

IMAGINE THOSE  
GUYS WERE GOING  
TO KILL US. YOU  
WOULDN'T LET  
THEM, WOULD YOU?

TAWANA!  
ARE WE  
GLAD TO  
SEE YOU!



OF COURSE NOT - NOT  
WITHOUT YOUR SUFFERING  
THE TORTURE OF A  
THOUSAND BARBS! BIND  
THEM! TAWANA HAS  
SPKEN!



ABBOTT, WHY DID SHE CHANGE  
TOWARD US. I DON'T GET  
THE POINT - BUT I WILL -  
ALL OF THEM!





IT IS ODD.  
THE SO FAT ONE  
IS FAMILIAR. I  
HAVE SEEN  
THAT STOMACH  
SOMEPLACE  
BEFORE!



HOLD! I  
HAVE IT!  
LAY DOWN  
YOUR ARMS!



BEHOLD, MEN OF  
THE WASULI - THE  
FAT ONE IS CAST IN  
THE IMAGE OF  
OUR TOTEM GOD!

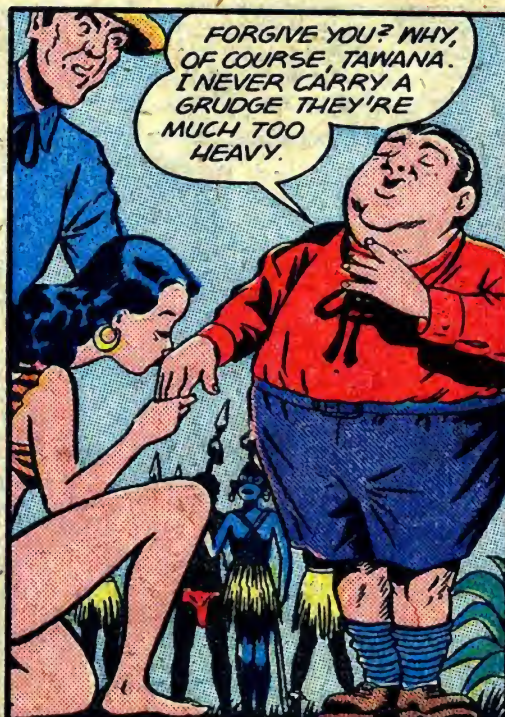


HEY, HOW ABOUT  
THIS? IT LOOKS  
JUST LIKE ME!  
SAME EYES -  
SAME CHINS!

THE  
WASULI  
REJOICE  
THIS  
DAY!



DRAT IT! THE  
CHUMPS ADORE  
HIM! I'D BETTER  
MAKE FRIENDS  
FAST!

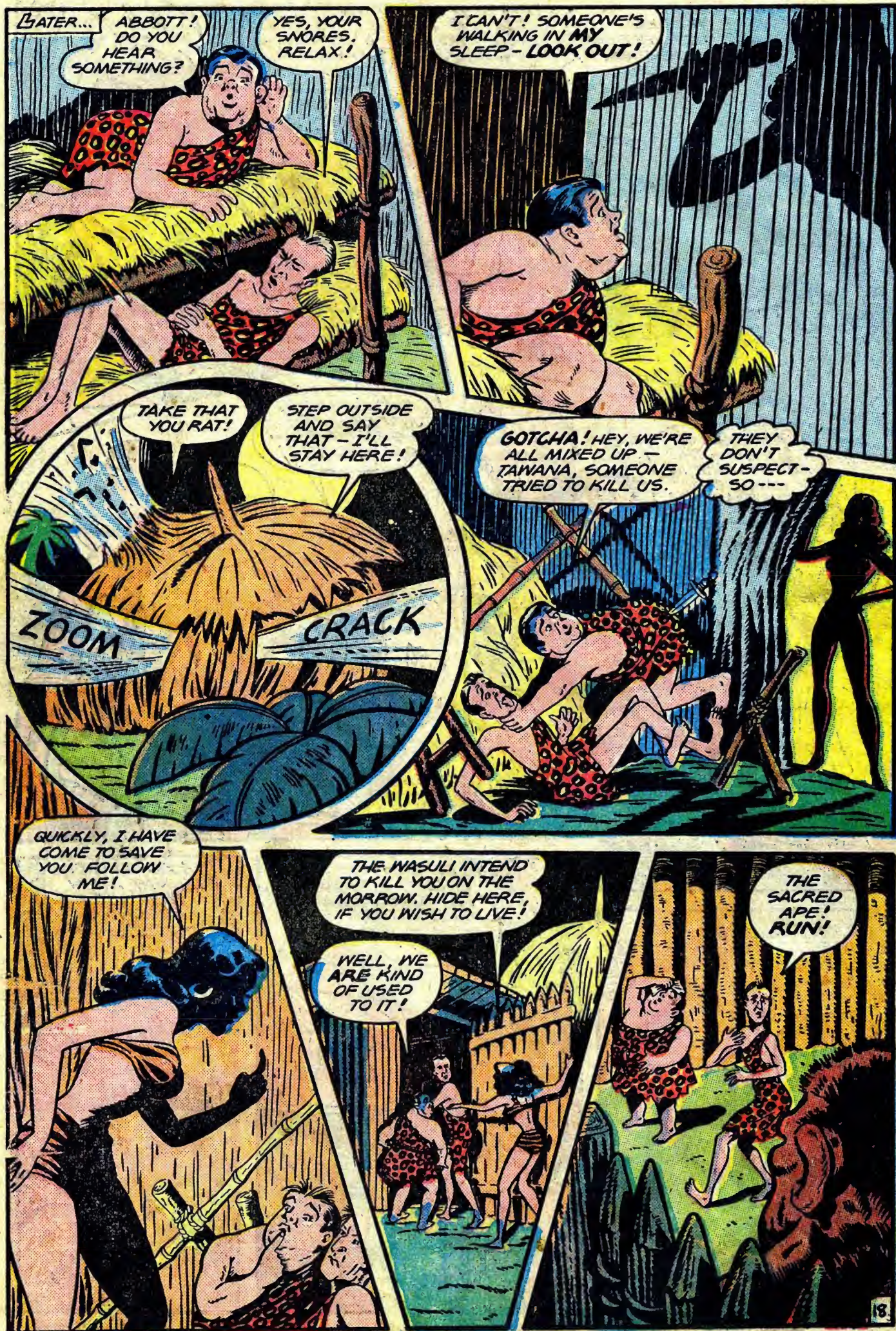


FORGIVE YOU? WHY,  
OF COURSE, TAWANA.  
I NEVER CARRY A  
GRUDGE THEY'RE  
MUCH TOO  
HEAVY.



GOOD GAL! NOW  
TONIGHT WHEN  
THEY'RE  
SNOOZING ...





LATER... ABBOTT! DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

YES, YOUR SNORES. RELAX!

I CAN'T! SOMEONE'S WALKING IN MY SLEEP - LOOK OUT!

TAKE THAT YOU RAT!

STEP OUTSIDE AND SAY THAT - I'LL STAY HERE!

GOTCHA! HEY, WE'RE ALL MIXED UP - TAWANA, SOMEONE TRIED TO KILL US.

THEY DON'T SUSPECT - SO ---

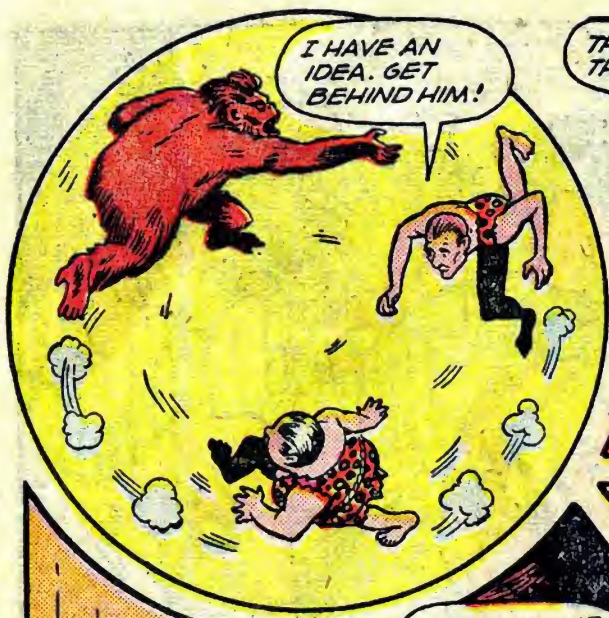
QUICKLY, I HAVE COME TO SAVE YOU. FOLLOW ME!

THE WASULI INTEND TO KILL YOU ON THE MORROW. HIDE HERE, IF YOU WISH TO LIVE!

WELL, WE ARE KIND OF USED TO IT!

THE SACRED APE! RUN!





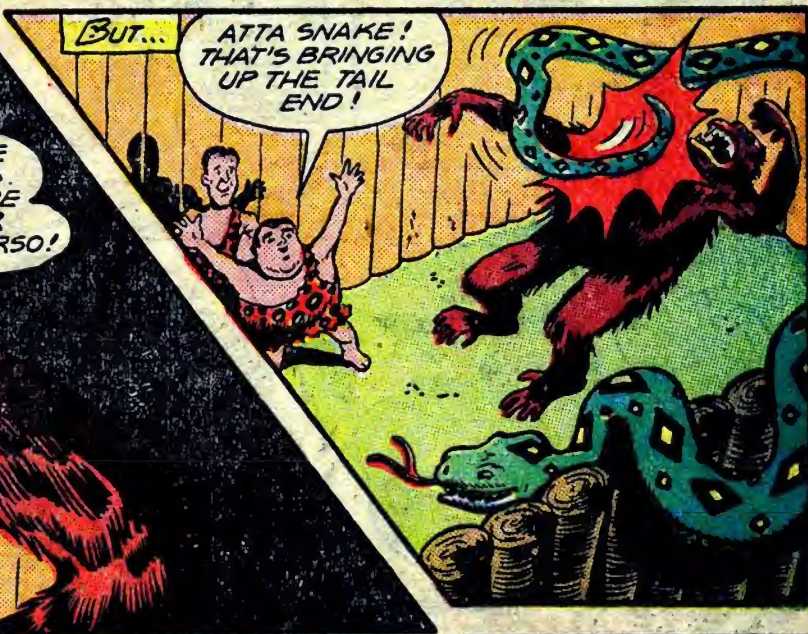
I HAVE AN  
IDEA. GET  
BEHIND HIM!

THEY WENT  
THAT WAY!

NO, THIS WAY.  
JUST STEPPED  
OUT TO THE  
SOUTH POLE!



NO USE. HE  
REMEMBERS.  
HE'S THE TYPE  
THAT **NEVER**  
FORGETS A **TORSO!**



BUT...

ATTA SNAKE!  
THAT'S BRINGING  
UP THE TAIL  
END!



SOME  
PAL. WHAT  
WOULD WE  
HAVE DONE  
WITHOUT  
HER?

STOPPED  
BREATH-  
ING

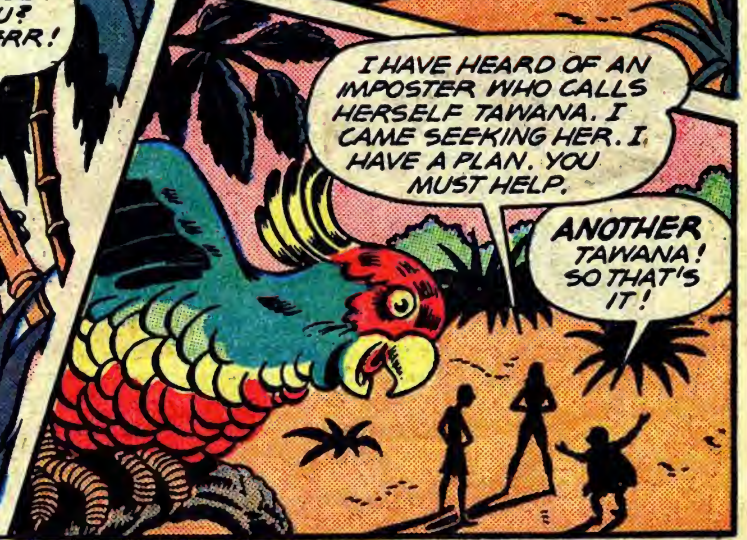


MADE IT! AND THERE'S  
THAT TAWANA! EVEN  
**WITHOUT** A SCORECARD,  
I KNOW SHE'S NOT ON  
OUR SIDE! LET'S GO!



YOU MAY THINK IT  
ODD, BUT WE'RE  
GONNA GET EVEN!

















NO-NO, DON'T!  
LET ME UP AND  
I'LL NEVER  
DARKEN YOUR  
JUNGLE AGAIN!

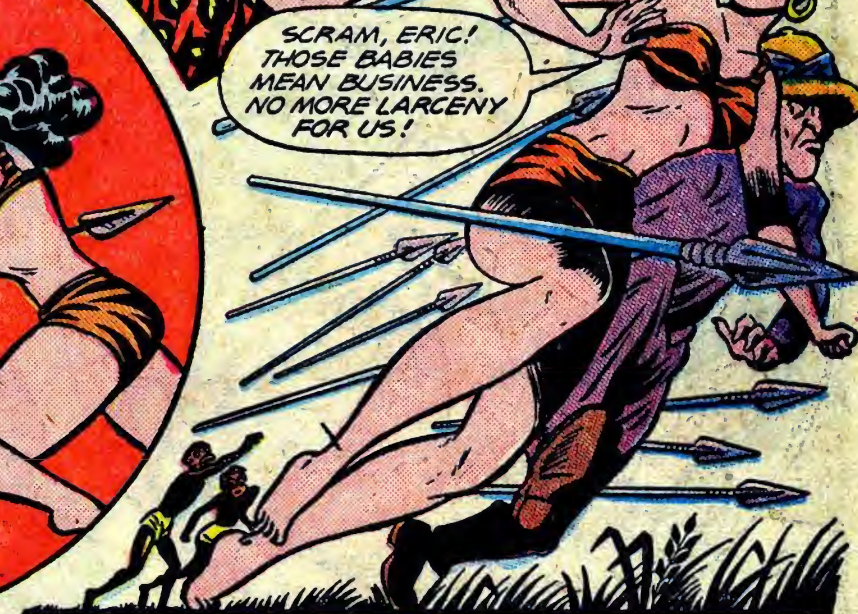


SO, WRETCH, YOU IMPERSONATE  
TAWANA! RUN FOR YOUR  
WORTHLESS LIFE, WHILE I AM  
STILL MERCIFUL!



PLEASE, I CAN'T  
DIE LIKE THIS - SO  
YOUNG, SO GAY,  
SO OBESE!

COURAGE!  
TAWANA  
COMES!



SCRAM, ERIC!  
THOSE BABIES  
MEAN BUSINESS.  
NO MORE LARGENY  
FOR US!



THANKS, KEEP.  
BUT I COULD  
HAVE MURDERED  
THE BUM - I  
MEAN BUMETTE!



HEAR ME! AS  
CHIEF OF ALL  
THE WASULI, I  
PRESENT THE  
JEWELS TO HIM  
OF MANY POUNDS.



HEY, ABBOTT!  
WE'RE RICH!  
WE'LL BUY  
A YACHT - A  
SWIMMING  
POOL - A  
POUND OF  
BUTTER!





WE'LL BE LEAVING  
SHORTLY, BUT  
WE'LL GO HOME  
BY THE HIGHEST  
CLASS TRAMP  
STEAMER.

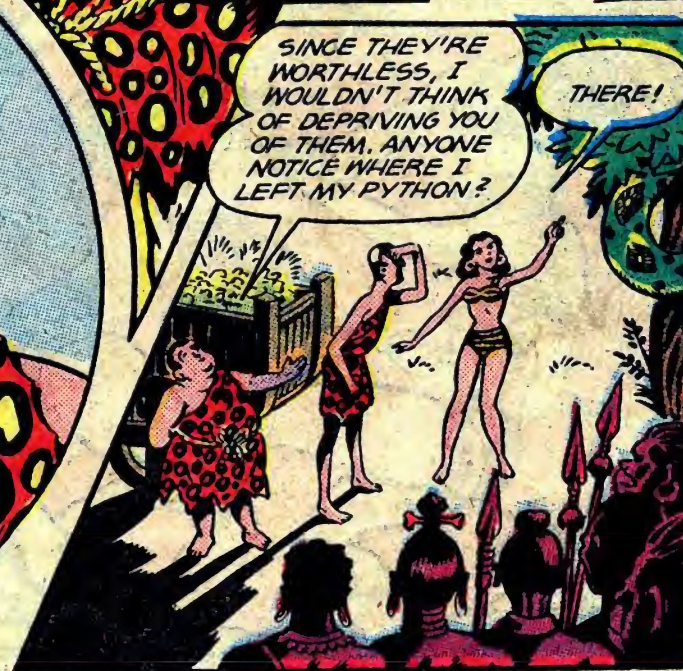


THEN,  
I'LL BUY  
ERMINE  
UNDERWEAR!  
I'LL -

SORRY, COSTELLO,  
BUT YOU MUST  
KNOW SOMETIME -



OH, GEE, WHY DOES  
SOMEONE ALWAYS  
TORPEDO MY DREAM  
BOAT?



SINCE THEY'RE  
WORTHLESS, I  
WOULDN'T THINK  
OF DEPRIVING YOU  
OF THEM. ANYONE  
NOTICE WHERE I  
LEFT MY PYTHON?

THERE!



HUMPH!  
WELL I HOPE  
YOU'LL BE  
VERY HAPPY,  
YOU SNAKES!



YOU MUST  
GO NOW,  
MY FRIENDS?

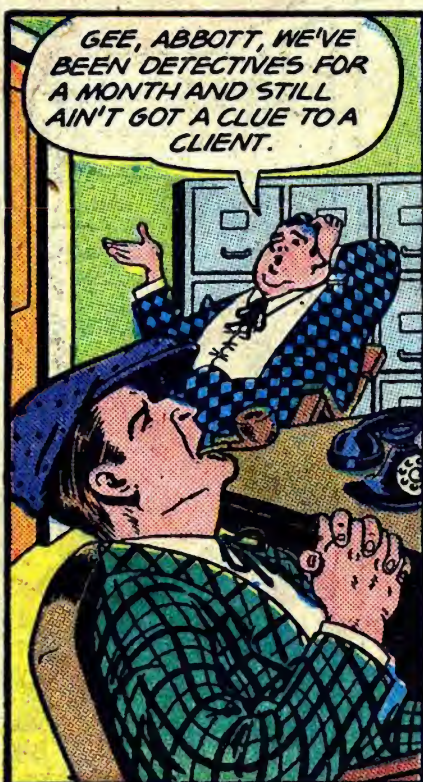
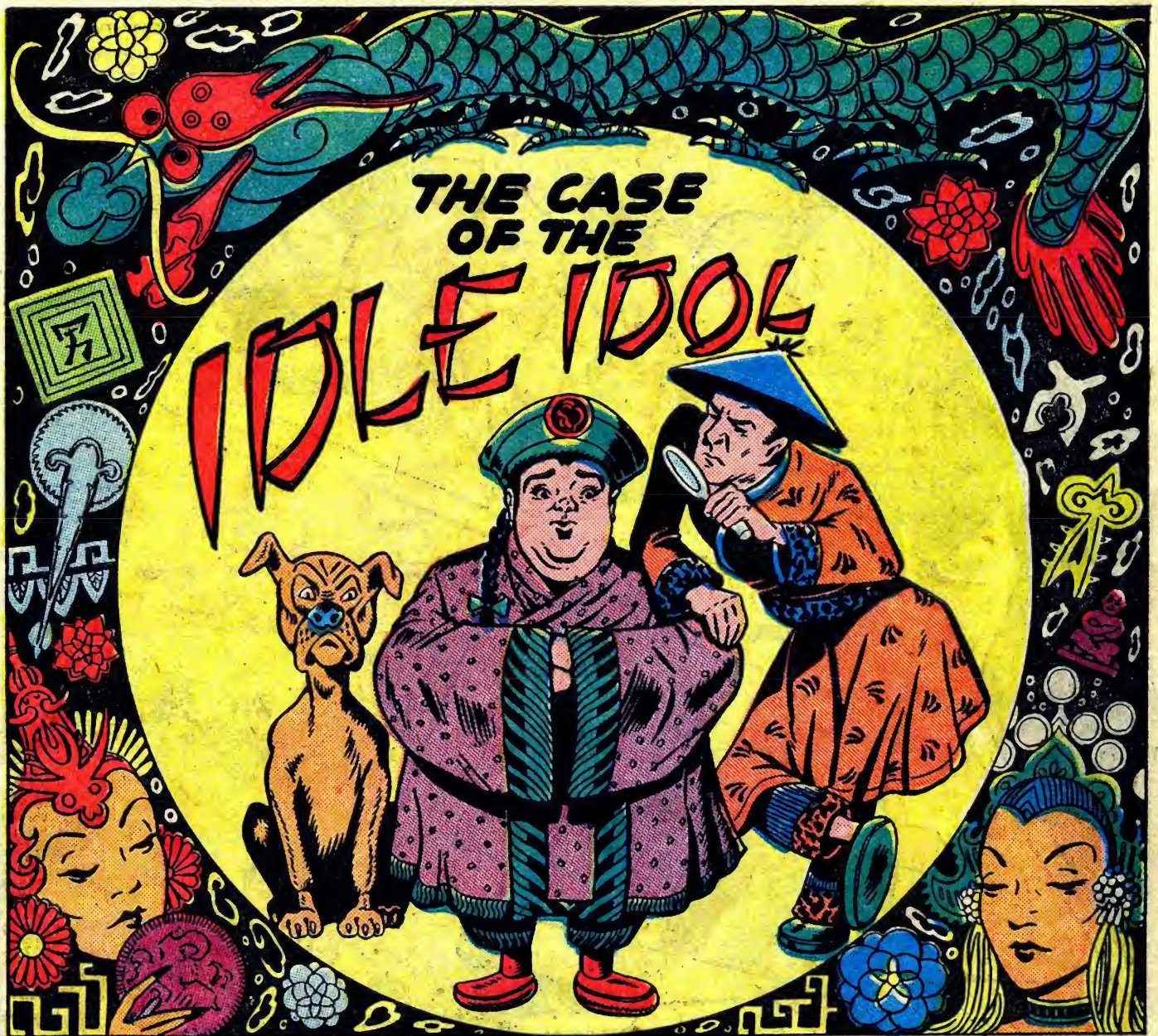
YUP, WE'LL  
HAVE TO  
WALK BACK,  
BUT WE'RE  
FULL OF  
TREKS. BYE,  
HONEY.



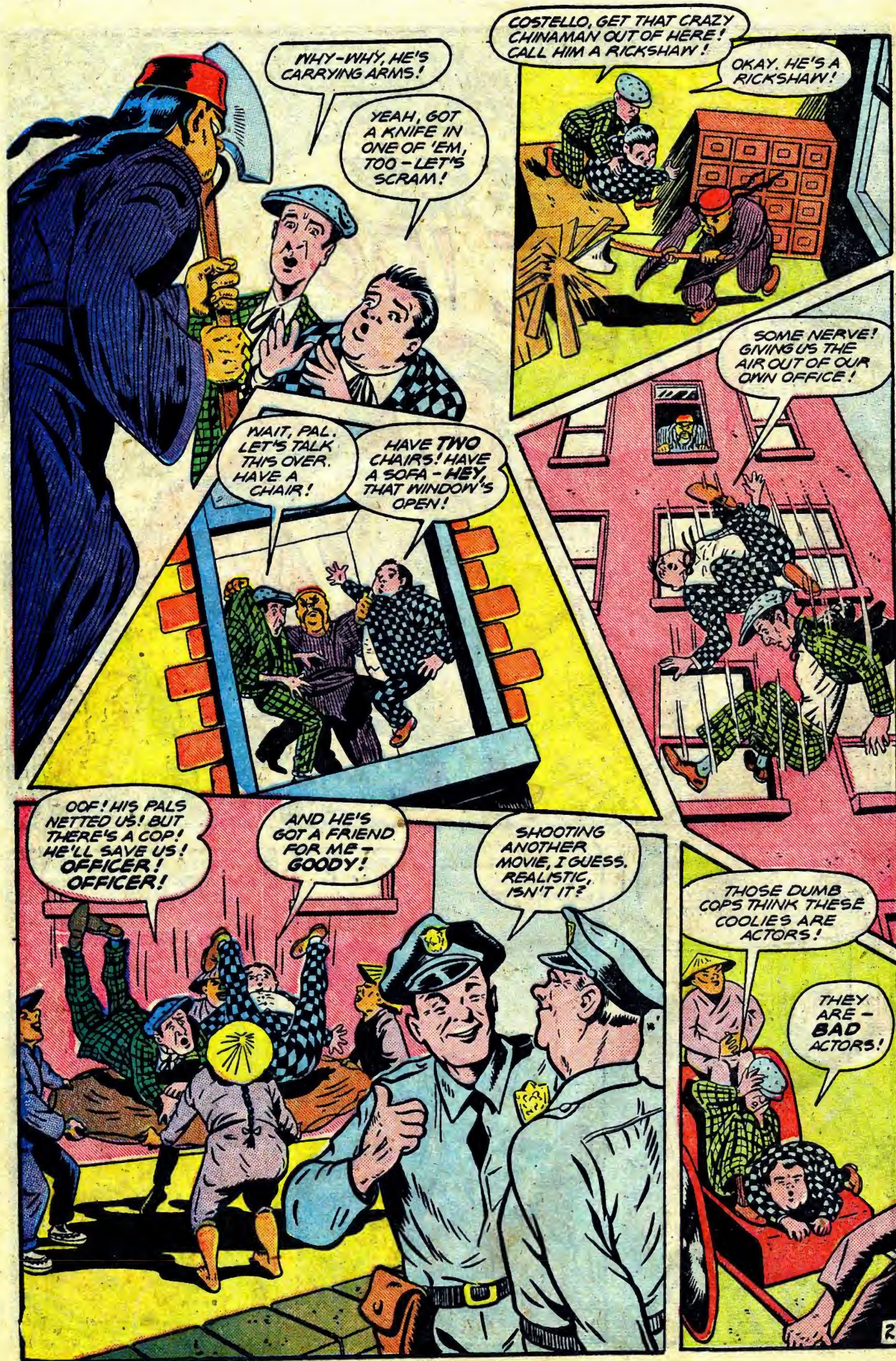
WHEN! I'M GLAD TO  
START HOME. THE  
JUNGLE'S TOO MUCH.  
I'M NOT GETTING  
ANY YOUNGER YOU  
KNOW.

WE ALMOST  
DIDN'T GET  
ANY OLDER,  
EITHER!











SOON... DEEP IN  
CHINATOWN...

A TEMPLE! MAYBE  
THEY'RE JUST TAKING  
US HOME FOR SOME  
REAL CHINESE  
COOKING.

THAT'S OKAY,  
IF WE'RE  
NOT ON THE  
MENU.

LOOKS LIKE HE  
WANTS US TO ENTER.  
WONDER WHAT'S ON  
THE OTHER SIDE OF  
THE DOOR?

CAN'T BE  
WORSE THAN  
WHAT'S ON  
THIS SIDE.

GOSH, COSTELLO  
WHOEVER THIS  
IS SURE LOOKS  
MAD!

YEAH, BUT  
I'LL MAKE  
FRIENDS-ER-  
IS THAT A  
NEW SNEER  
YOU'RE WEARING  
HONEY?

HEAR ME, DOGS!  
THE SACRED  
JADE IDOL OF  
MY PEOPLE HAS  
BEEN TAKEN  
AWAY!

IT HAS? WELL,  
SURE IS A  
NICE TIME OF  
THE YEAR FOR  
IT!

I WILL PAY  
FIFTY DOLLARS  
AN HOUR!

FIFTY BUCKS  
AN HOUR! GEE,  
IF WE NEVER  
FIND IT - WE'LL  
GET RICH!

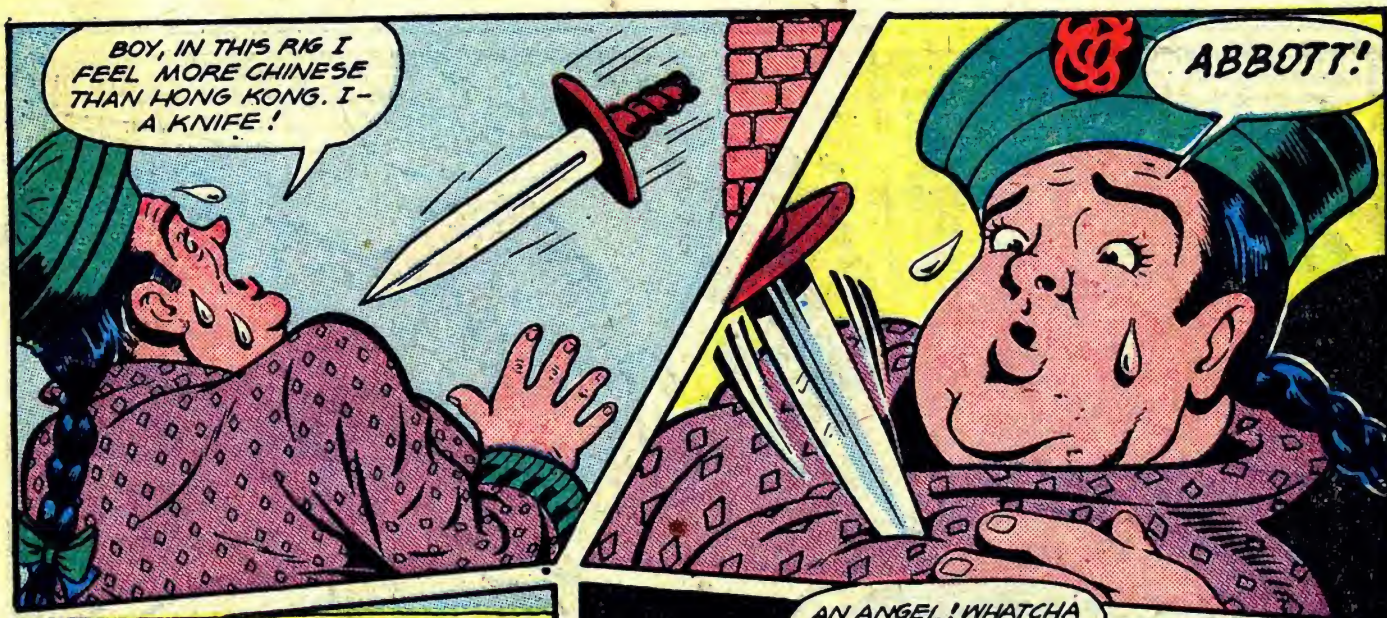
BUT... THE MASTER WAS  
WISE TO STATION  
ME IN THE TEMPLE  
OF TAU FOO AS A SPY.  
I MUST HASTEN WITH  
THIS NEWS!

DO NOT JEST!  
IT HAS BEEN  
STOLEN. YOU  
ARE DETECTIVES,  
FIND IT!









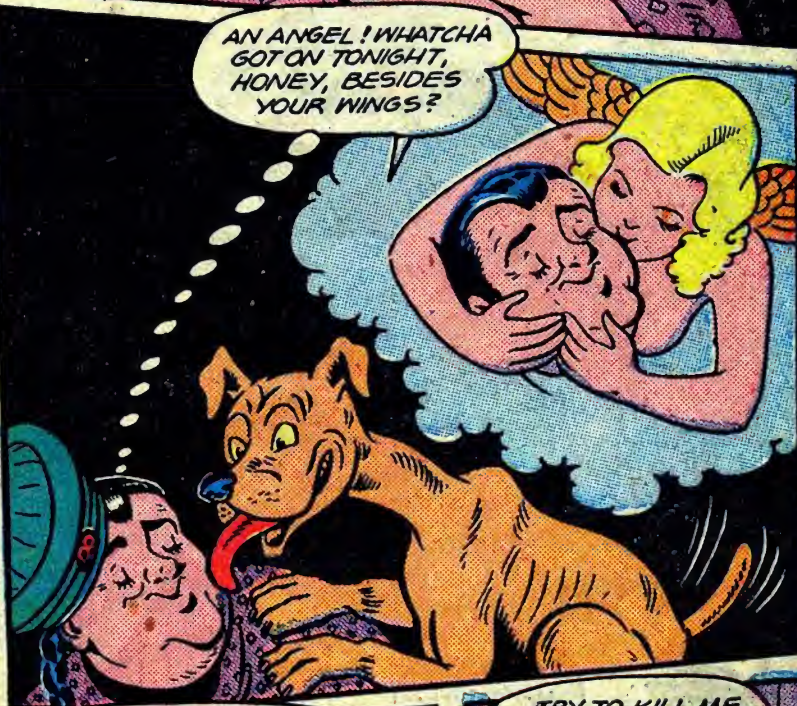
BOY, IN THIS RIG I  
FEEL MORE CHINESE  
THAN HONG KONG. I-  
A KNIFE!

ABBOTT!

A MUFFLED SCREAM, A SMALL FAT  
FIGURE WADDLES A FEW STEPS,  
THEN FALLS UNSEEN BY ANY BUT...

AN ANGEL! WHATCHA  
GOT ON TONIGHT,  
HONEY, BESIDES  
YOUR WINGS?

JUST TELL  
MOTHER AND THE  
LOAN COMPANY MY  
LAST THOUGHTS  
WERE OF THEM.



OPERATOR K-9, WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING IN  
HEAVEN? WAIT, I'M NOT  
DEAD! THIS SALAMI  
SANDWICH I CARRY NEXT  
TO MY HEART FOR  
SENTIMENTAL REASONS  
SAVED MY LIFE!

HERE, K-9, HAVE A  
LUNCH HOUR ON ME! BUT  
GET BACK TO THE OFFICE,  
WILL YOU? SOMEONE'S  
GOTTA ANSWER THE  
PHONE!..

TRY TO KILL ME,  
HUH? WELL, SOME  
RAT WILL BE  
SURPRISED TO  
FIND I'M NO  
DEADER THAN  
USUAL!



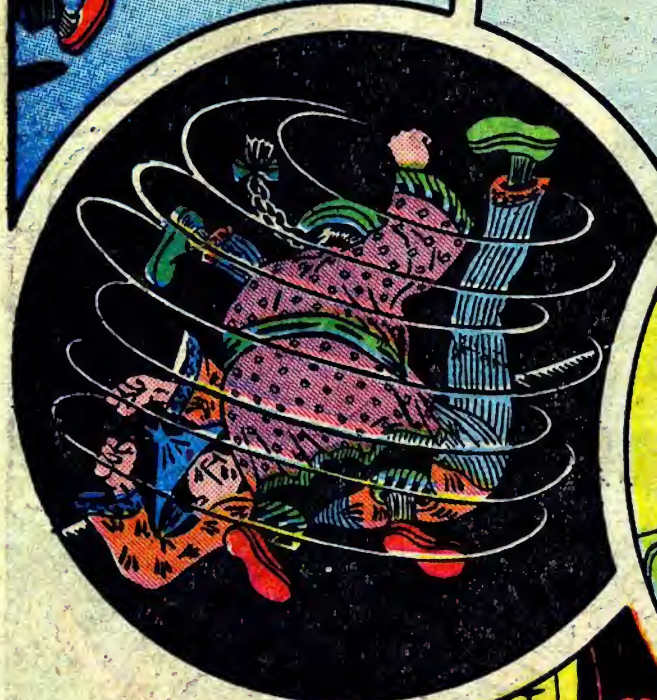




AH, HA! ANY GUY UP  
AN ALLEY MUST BE  
UP TO SOMETHING!



MUST BE THE RAT WHO  
TRIED TO KNIFE ME.  
HERE'S WHERE I (GRR!)  
MAKE HIM A MAN OF  
EXTINCTION!



ABBOTT, I  
DIDN'T KNOW  
IT WAS YOU!  
WHY, I'D GIVE  
YOU THE  
KIMONO OFF  
MY BACK!

YES, WITH-  
OUT WASH-  
ING IT, YOU  
IDIOT!



DO NOT  
GUARREL,  
FRIENDS.  
COME JOIN  
ME IN  
SOME TEA!

TEA? WHY,  
HONEY, I'D  
EVEN JOIN  
YOU IN  
SOME ARSENIC!



FOOD'S A GOOD  
IDEA. I HAVEN'T  
EATEN SINCE  
LAST TIME.  
THROUGH HERE,  
EH?

AH, SHE  
LURES  
THEM -  
ATTACK!



HEY - GET YOUR  
HANDS OFF ME,  
OR I'LL HIT YOU A  
BELT IN THE  
CHOPSTICKS WHAT'S  
THE IDEA?





THE IDEA? I HAVE  
HERE THE IDOL YOU  
SEEK. I TRICKED YOU  
FOR I'M NOBODY'S  
FOOL!

UNEMPLOYED,  
EH?



VERY FUNNY.  
I TRUST YOUR  
HUMOR SURVIVES  
TORTURE. PREPARE  
THE BURNING  
OIL!



COSTELLO, SHE  
LEAD US RIGHT  
INTO THE  
LION'S DEN!

NO, SHE DIDN'T!  
NO SELF-RESPECT-  
ING LION WOULD  
BE FOUND IN THIS  
DUMP.



BUT...

MASTER,  
BEHOLD,  
THE  
DRAGON GOD  
WALKS!



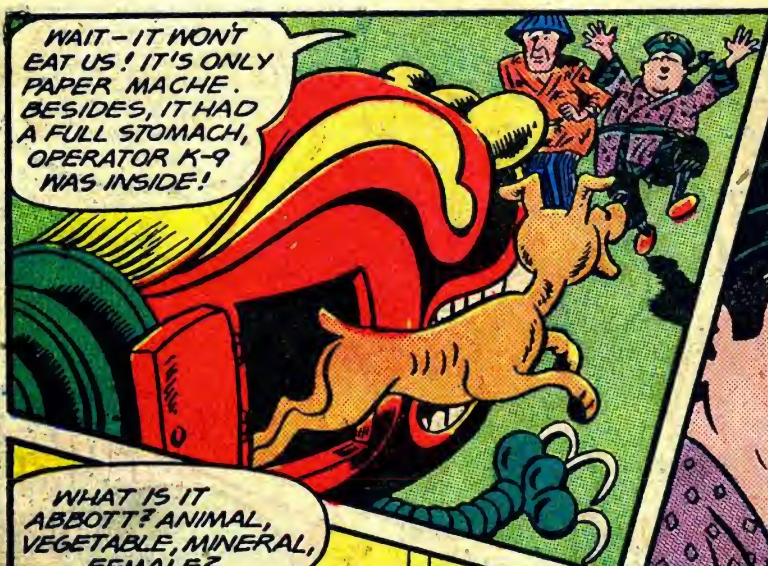
IT COMES  
CLOSER! IT IS  
DISPLEASED.  
FLEE! FLEE!



WE'RE  
TRAPPED!  
WHAT DO YOU  
SUGGEST?

FOR HIM?  
A GOOD  
MOUTH  
WASH!





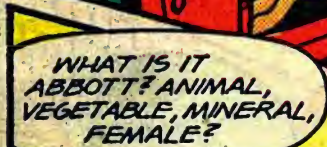
WAIT - IT WON'T EAT US! IT'S ONLY PAPER MACHE. BESIDES, IT HAD A FULL STOMACH, OPERATOR K-9 WAS INSIDE!



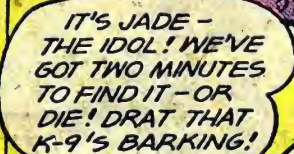
HE'S A PAL - AND TO SHOW HOW GRATEFUL I AM, I'M GONNA TEAR UP THE MORTGAGE ON HIS KENNEL.



HMM... SEEMS LIKE WE'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING THOUGH.



WHAT IS IT ABBOTT? ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, MINERAL, FEMALE?



IT'S JADE - THE IDOL! WE'VE GOT TWO MINUTES TO FIND IT - OR DIE! DRAT THAT K-9'S BARKING!



WAIT, ABBOTT! HE BARKED A MOUTHFUL - THE IDOL - K-9 FOUND IT!

WE'RE SAVED!

SOON...



HERE'S YOUR IDOL, KID. WHY DON'T YOU PUT IT IN A GOOD SAFE PLACE, LIKE THE AMAZON RIVER?

I AM GRATEFUL.



AW, SKIP IT, HONEY. NEXT TIME YOU WANT US, GIVE A BUZZ - WE'RE DISCONNECTING THE PHONE!



LATER... HEY, GENTS, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO TOUR CHINATOWN?

CHINATOWN TOURS

WITH A MILITARY ESCORT, THAT'S HOW!





**BUD ABBOTT**

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## ABOUT ABBOTT

By **LOU COSTELLO**

A lot of people think Abbott is a jerk. I'm one of them. I've known him for years and years....without time off for good behavior. He's the closest friend I have. In fact, I don't know anyone so stingy! I'm just joking. Actually Abbott would give you the shirt off his back. Provided, of course, you were the laundry man.

Does this begin to sound as though I don't like Abbott? It *does*? Good, then I won't have to start over again. Seriously, though, we're great pals. Why compared to us, Damon and Pythias had a mere nodding acquaintance. We've been together so long that I feel better equipped than even Abbott himself to write his life story. Besides, I can spell.

You've got to give Abbott a lot of credit. You really do. Nobody else would lend him a dime. What I mean is look at the big shot he is today. And he came

from a very poor family! Gosh, were they poor! But what else could you expect with a crook like Abbott in the house? Yes, Sir, I'll take my hat off to Abbott, but I refuse to let it out of my sight.

I suppose you'd like to know how Abbott started his career. So would the F. B. I. All I know is that he claims to be a self-made man. Maybe he is, but frankly I think he should try again. He's bound to improve with practice. He's always bragging about starting at the bottom, but what's so hot about that? So does athlete's foot.

Abbott likes to boast that he drives the nicest car in town. Be careful. Don't leave your keys in the ignition. However, the automobile he has now is really a beauty. That's one thing you can't take away from him. But the finance company will the first of the month.

Abbott's always beating his gums about what a great physical specimen he is. I wish I had a body like his! The first thing I'd do would be take a shower. Maybe he has got a lot of muscles. But why doesn't he wear them? Last winter he went to Florida for his health. He couldn't find it. It must have been in some *other* state. I'll never forget the time I went to the gym with him. At closing time the porter tried to tuck Abbott away with the Indian clubs. For years he had me believing that he had played in a big Army-Navy game, all right. But it wasn't football! It was a *poker* game with two sergeants and a sailor!

People wonder why I always let Abbott do the thinking. It's just that I figure he needs the practice. He's got a nice clear mind. He never gets it cluttered up with any ideas. Abbott says *I'm* stupid. Maybe I am. But when I look at him, I know I haven't got a monopoly.

I guess I shouldn't kick. Over the years I've had a lot of fun. But not with Abbott! One Saturday night he asked me out on a double date. It *really* was a double date! I had to pay for him, too! I would have left in a huff, except that a taxi's faster.

Don't get me wrong. Actually I'm very fond of Abbott. Why I have him over to my house every single night. I wish I could remember to close the windows.





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